

Grade Three

Introduction to History and the Social Sciences

The standards for third grade develop an understanding of the elements of civilizations and their interrelationship by studying several early civilizations. Students also learn about the discovery, exploration, and colonization of America. Third graders should apply the concepts of latitude and longitude as they study the geography of Virginia and the United States. The study of economics continues within the context of the historical study of exploration and colonization, and students are expected to learn about economic specialization, taxation, and the influence of transportation and communication on the distribution of goods and services.

History

- 3.1 The student will explain the term “civilization” and describe the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome, in terms of geographic features, government, agriculture, architecture, music, art, religion, sports, and roles of men, women, and children.
- 3.2 The student will describe the discovery of the Americas by Columbus and other European explorers and also the first permanent Spanish, French, and English settlements in North America, with emphasis on the people (explorers and their sponsors), their motivations, the obstacles they encountered, and the successes they achieved.
- 3.3 The student will describe the settlement of Jamestown and the Virginia colony, with emphasis on economic and other reasons that brought settlers to Virginia, the establishment of representative government, the economy, settlers’ interactions with American Indians, and the introduction of slavery into Virginia.
- 3.4 The student will identify historical cause-and-effect relationships such as colonists establishing governments similar to those that governed those colonists in Europe.

Geography

- 3.5 The student will distinguish between meridians of longitude and parallels of latitude and use the equator and prime meridian to identify the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western hemispheres and the locations of the ancient civilizations, European nations, and American colonies which the student is studying.
- 3.6 The student will use maps, tables, graphs, and charts to classify regions with common characteristics, such as deserts.

Economics

- 3.7 The student will describe the economic specialization and interdependence involved in the production of goods and services in various types of communities in the past.
- 3.8 The student will explain in simple terms how opportunity cost, scarcity, and price influence economic decision making.
- 3.9 The student will explain the relationship between taxation and government services.
- 3.10 The student will describe the impact of changing modes of transportation and communication on the distribution of goods and services.

Civics

- 3.11 The student will explain the fundamental ideals and principles that form the foundation of our republican form of government including inalienable rights (“life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”), the rule of law, justice, and equality under the law.
- 3.12 The student will explain the interaction between rights and responsibilities; why we have rules, laws, and constitutional mandates to protect rights and make sure responsibilities are carried out; consequences for violating them; and the role of citizenship in promoting them.
- 3.13 The student will identify examples from history of conflicts over rights, how those conflicts were resolved, and the important people who helped resolve them.